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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member knows the area is large, and if the information is to be furnished it will be a very big list. I promised yesterday we would issue a Press Note. Even that has come to four pages. So I do not think that it would be possible to furnish such a big list."

Ports administered by the Madras Government.

* 203 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the ports administered by the Madras Government;

(*b*) the number of vessels which called at the ports administered by the Madras Government, the tonnage, and the number of passengers passing through, since 1938–39 (yearly);

(*c*) whether the Government have any schemes for the development of the ports or any of them;

(*d*) if so, what are the schemes and what are the estimated costs; and

(*e*) whether there is a proposal to develop Tuticorin and Negapatam as major ports in view of their importance as main outlets from South India to Ceylon and Malaya respectively?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) to (*e*) Attention is invited to the paper[a] placed on the table."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Are Government aware that embarking and disembarking at the port of Negapatam are painful, cumbersome and dangerous operations?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" With reference to clause (*e*) of the question may I ask, in view of the fact that more than 5 lakhs of passengers pass through the port of Negapatam, whether the Government will convert the port into a deep set port?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It has not been possible to make it into a deep sea port. I do not think it is worthwhile pursuing it as the Government of India are considering that question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it a fact that Rs. 50 lakhs had accumulated under the Minor Ports Fund and they were transferred to the general revenues in 1938? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That was so, and we are getting it back with compound interest."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" When the money is available back again for improvement of minor ports, will it then become possible to develop Negapatam as a deep sea port? "

[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 302–307 infra.

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" When the Government feel that it would be feasible to take up that question, they would certainly do it."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" In view of the answer to clause (e) that the Government of India were addressed urging them to convert the Tuticorin Port as a deep sea port at their cost and that an interim reply has been received, may I know whether this interim reply received from the Government of India shows that the port is very likely to be developed in the near future? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Their replys does not give that assurance, Sir; we are still pursuing the question."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" If the Government of India are not agreeable to develop Tuticorin as a deep sea port and in view of the fact that a large number of passengers embark at Negapatam, will the Government consider the desirability of using the minor ports fund for the purpose of developing Negapatam? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We have got a programme to develop the minor ports with the minor ports fund and even if we give up all the programme, that fund would not be sufficient at all for developing the Negapatam port without the support of the Government of India."

Particulars regarding purchase of the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited.

* 204 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the paid up capital of the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited;

(b) the total percentage of the dividends declared by the company since its formation up to its sale to the Government;

(c) the amount paid by the Government by way of purchase price;

(d) whether the purchase price has been finally fixed and settled;

(e) the name of the person or firm entrusted with the work of estimating the value of the undertaking; and

(f) what factors are or will be taken into account by the said person or firm in arriving at the amount paid or to be paid as purchase price?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) The total paid-up capital of the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, up to the end of 1946 is £1,050,000.

" (b) On ordinary shares, 4 per cent in 1917, 5 per cent in 1918, 7½ per cent less income-tax in 1919, 8 per cent free of income-tax from 1920 to 1938, 6 per cent free of income-tax in 1939, 4 per cent free of income-tax in 1940 and 1941, nil